**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**November 2023 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

**President, Paul Meade, Emergency Phone: 616-340-7305**

**TIME TO GIVE THANKS…**

“In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

There is no schedule when it comes to giving thanks to God. You can thank Him in the morning when you pray to start your day. You can set your alarm to remind yourself to give Him thanks at lunchtime. And bedtime offers the opportunity to reflect on…and give thanks for…the blessings you may have taken for granted throughout the day.

But what about all those other minutes of the day? That moment when you looked out the window and saw the sunrise and the breathtaking beauty of the Lord filling the skies? Do you have to wait until noon or evening to thank Him for this glorious display? Of course not!...

Or what about when you almost ran into the car that pulled out in front of you – but you didn’t? Should you wait until you go to bed to thank God for giving you quick reflexes and good brakes? No way!

*Every moment of every day – from the rising of the sun to the setting of the same – provides us an opportunity to cultivate a thankful heart.*

Take time during this season of thanks to remember all that you have and make a point to be intentional about thanking the Lord for His presence and blessings in your life.

From: **Give Thanks**, Karla Dornacher, c 2009, Thomas Nelson, Inc.

**WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE**

The worship schedule for the remainder of the year is full and we are so thankful to the supply pastors and our congregation for the willingness to help us continue to provide weekly worship service. The schedule for the remainder of 2023 is:

November 5, Pastor Jim Morgan

November 12, Pastor Jim Couser

November 19, ZLCW Thank Offering Service

November 26, Pastor Mike Kemper

December 3, Pastor Frank Rothfuss

December 10, Pastor Jim Morgan

December 17, Children’s Christmas Program

December 24, Pastor Polly Standley

December 31, Pastor Mike Kember

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVNG SERVICE AT ZION**

**NOVEMBER 19**

Zion is hosting the community Thanksgiving Worship Service, Sunday, November 19th at 7:00 pm. The service is put on by the Lakewood Ministerial Association. Please plan to attend this special service. We will be providing refreshments after the service. If you can bring cookies, bars, crackers/cheese or other goodies, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you can help host this service, please see Karen Heise or Carlotta Willard. Thank you.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

As the weather gets colder and we find ourselves inside more, it is a great time to get the knitting needles and crochet hooks out to make some prayer shawls. We have given a number of prayer shawls out and the shelf is getting low on shawls. There is no set pattern or size. It is good to have shawls of all sizes and colors. Also, remember that our prayer shawls are available for you to take to anyone who you think would benefit from having this symbol of love and concern. There is a card to sign in the bag with the shawl and a sheet to record who shawls are given to in the drawer of the table in the Narthex. If you have questions, please talk with Martha.



**SOCK COLLECTION FOR LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A table is set up in the Fellowship Hall for donations of socks to be included in the Christmas baskets distributed by the Lakewood Community Council. Zion was asked to consider holding a sock collection as there are typically not enough socks for the baskets. Socks for all ages are needed, but especially for adults. If you can help with this important ministry, please bring your donations by November 19th. If you have questions about the sock drive, please talk with Janine Frizzell or any member of the Board of Evangelism. If you would like more information on the Lakewood Community Council Christmas Basket project, please talk with Claude Smith or Buffy Meyers.

**THANKOFFERING SERVICE**

Sunday, November 19th is the ZLCW Thankoffering Service. Please look for Thankoffering envelopes in your church mail boxes soon.  Our service will have many of our ladies and girls serving in our worship. We look forward to seeing you at this uplifting service.

**CHURCH MUSICIAN OPENING**

We have an opening for the position of church musician for two Sundays a month starting in January 2024. The musician would play liturgy and hymns for our Sunday worship services. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in sharing their musical gifts with Zion, please contact Buffy Meyers.  It is a paid position.

**THANK YOU TO**

**HEISE FARMS**

A huge thank you to Ken and Karen Heise and their crew for refurbishing all of the toilets in our bathrooms. The workings had become worn so that the toilets would not always stop running. We really appreciate their work to make them work great again! It is much appreciated.

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

Zion’s last time to host the community dinner this year will be November 28th. The community dinners are held at Central United Methodist Church in Lake Odessa. Area churches take turns hosting the dinners. The host church provides dessert and workers to help set up, serve, and clean up. We need 6-7 workers and desserts enough for 80 people. If you can help, please let Martha know.

Thank you!

**ZION FREE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM AND MARKET**

Zion will be hosting the 3rd annual Free Christmas Tree Farm and Market on November 17 and 18th. We have received very generous donations this year and have two rooms full of Christmas items to get ready for the event. Volunteers are needed after worship on November 12th and throughout the week to get the Christmas Tree Farm and Market ready. New this year is that individuals can call either Martha or Karen to reserve a tree. Last year we gave away 60 trees and all the décor the first day. This year we have so much there should be things for people who come both days. We have started to advertise and have started to receive tree reservations.

We also need people to work during the event and people to donate cookies or other goodies for our shoppers to enjoy. If you can help with this event, please talk with Martha. A sign-up sheet is also in the Narthex.

**SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER**

**November 5- In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Morgan

Acolyte: Levi Griffin

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Mary Makley & Martha Yoder

**November 12-In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Couser

Acolyte: Kole Hokanson

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard

**November 19- In Sanctuary, No Communion**

Thankoffering Service

Acolyte: Lexi Griffin

Elder: Buffy Meyers

Trustee: Martha Yoder

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle

& Carlotta Willard

**November 26-In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Mike Kemper

Acolyte: Levi Griffin

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson